

## IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILLS 1115 – 1118

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In 2007, my son, a perfectly healthy 22-month old, became sick with an infection in his chest. He went from hospital to hospital, and they could not diagnose what was wrong with him. He finally became so sick and we again took him to a nearby hospital. At the hospital, they continued to write in the records that they were not going to do a certain surgical procedure to get the infection out of his chest. Finally, in the late evening, they decided to do the surgery. Surgery was performed on his chest. During the surgery, one of the doctors basically admitted it was so filled with phlegm, that they could not see what they were doing inside my child. Immediately thereafter, they cut one of the veins in my son's chest near his heart. He lost all of his blood. There was a record written by the doctor that said he had my son's heart in his hand and there was no more blood to pump because he had bled out.

For the doctors to keep going, knowing that my son's chest was so full of infection that they could not see what they were doing, and for their actions to result in severing a vein in my son's chest near his heart, is unconscionable. What would be worse is to think that these doctors would not be held responsible if they could simply file an affidavit to say "I thought I was doing what was best, and in my judgment it was best."

Why should doctors be allowed to have immunity for the rest of their lives? Why should they be able to act negligently and not be responsible? I have to live with my son's condition the way it is the rest of my life as a reminder of the doctor's negligence, but the doctors get to go on as if nothing happened? Does this make sense to any of you?

I have to raise my child like this, who was a normal child, the rest of his life. The cost of his care is incredible. Legislation that has been proposed will result in getting no compensation for my 24-7 care of my child. When a mother provides this care, with love, the new law states this is worth nothing. The law punishes a mother who chooses to stay home and care for a disabled child.

Because my child's damages will occur for many years into the future, proposed legislation will significantly reduce the amount of necessary compensation. Even with a successful recovery, it would not be enough to take care of my child. The taxpayers will then be forced to pay.